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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : David Y. McManis
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT : Congressional Hearings on Emergency Management

1. As you are aware, I have spent the last two days chairing a workshop on Emergency Management Simulation, as part of hearings held by the Investigation and Oversight Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee under the chairmanship of Congressman Gore. Several points are worth bringing to your attention:

-- [] one of the founders of NPIC, provided very compelling testimony on the need to use all national imagery resources to help predict and mitigate natural disasters. He has written extensively on the warning implicit in imagery of snow buildup in the western mountains this past spring, which if heeded could have permitted the disaster to be mitigated. His testimony was cleared by the Agency to the best of my knowledge.

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--Significant concern was expressed by many of the workshops that there may be an imbalance between the dollars spent on nuclear attack preparedness versus planning for natural disasters. More than 80 percent of the dollars spent by FEMA are for nuclear disaster planning, while almost all of the actual disasters are weather-related.

--All groups expressed great dissatisfaction with the leadership of FEMA in the emergency management arena. FEMA was urged to focus more of their capabilities on the needs of the outlying communities for training, help in planning and simulation, development of improved C³ capabilities, and research in emergency management subjects.

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--My group surprised me a bit by noting that the primary requirement was to improve disaster warning. The problems in our warning arena closely parallel those found in the emergency management area.

2. In sum, I found the hearings and workshops to be very valuable to me personally and believe they will impact on Congressional support to FEMA and the rest of the emergency management community.



David Y. McManis

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